

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

There is provided an image processing apparatus employing an error diffusion method capable of preventing a pseudo contour attributable to a delayed dot. The image processing apparatus receives an error diffused from a neighboring pixel and corrects a value (an input value of 0 to 1) of a pixel to be processed before it reduces a tone. Then a subtracter calculates an error associated with the tone reduction, which is diffused to a neighboring pixel. Herein, only for an input value of no less than 0.5 an inversion portion multiplies by  $-1$  an error from a neighboring pixel and an error to a neighboring pixel. Thus a dot can be free of delay to prevent a pseudo contour.